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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,760	04/13/2006	Markus Klumpe	289246US0PCT	5123
22850	7590	03/23/2010	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				KEYS, ROSALYNND ANN
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1621				
NOTIFICATION DATE			DELIVERY MODE	
03/23/2010			ELECTRONIC	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com  
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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/575,760	KLUMPE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Rosalynd Keys	1621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2010.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Status of Claims***

1. Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are pending.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are rejected.

Claims 3 and 4 are canceled.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed January 7, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicants argue that Dahlgren ('331) specifically describes 2-propylheptanol as the starting alcohol for alkoxylation (page 1, lines 24-29). Dahlgren also describes that a specific combination of chain length and chain branching is required to obtain the desired foaming and detergent power (page 1, lines 10-21). Nowhere does the reference disclose or suggest isomeric forms of the C5H11 portion of the alcohol chain and nowhere is there suggestion or motivation that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the present invention, to recognize that a specific isomer combination, as according to the present invention would provide significant improvement in emulsification, foam regulation and wetting of hard surfaces.

This argument is not persuasive because the Applicants also use 2-propylheptanol as the starting alcohol for alkoxylation. Further, the Examiner respectfully disagrees that Dahlgren ('331) requires a specific combination of chain length and chain branching to obtain the desired foaming and detergent power. What is required is the use of 2-propyl heptanol as a starting alcohol. The teaching on page 1, lines 10-21 disclose that it has long been known to alkoxylate alcohols for obtaining non-ionic surface-active compounds. These compounds have been used

e.g. in detergent compositions because of their wetting and dispersing properties. In a number of applications, alkoxylates of C8-11 alcohols have however been found to be too high-foaming and/or not to have the desired detergent power. For example, ethoxylates based on branched C8 alcohols often exhibit acceptable foaming but too low a detergent power, whereas ethoxylates based on straight or branched alcohols having a larger hydrocarbon chain often show an acceptable surface activity but too high foaming. Thus, there is a need for new alkylene oxide adducts with an improved ratio of foaming to detergent power. Dahlgren ('331) has found that an alkoxylate based upon 2-propylheptanol is suitable for use as a detergent in compositions for cleaning hard surfaces, since it has good detergent and wetting properties as well as low foaming as compared with other alcohols having substantially the same chain length (see page 1, lines 24-29).

The Applicants submitted a description of 2-propylheptanol from "LookChem" and argue that the name recited by Dahlgren defines a specific chemical structure having a normal chain C5H11 component-not the isomer mixture according to the claimed invention.

This argument is not persuasive because as pointed out in the previous office action, it is well known that C5H11 usually occurs or is formed as a mixture of isomers (see the attached definition of amyl from TheFreeDictionary). Further, 2-propylheptanol usually occurs or is formed as a mixture of isomers (see for example US Patents 4,969,953; 5,434,313 and 7,173,138). Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation that the C5H11 portion of the alkoxylates of Dahlgren et al. '331 and Dahlgren et al. '330 contains an isomeric mixture, unless Dahlgren et al. '331 and Dahlgren et al. '330 perform certain steps or utilize certain conditions in order to avoid such isomeric mixture.

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on

obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

For the above reasons, as well as those given in the previous office action mailed October 9, 2009, the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahlgren et al. (WO 94/11331) in view of Dahlgren et al. (WO 94/11330) and further in view of Clement et al. (WO 01/04183 A1) is maintained.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahlgren et al. (WO 94/11331) in view of Dahlgren et al. (WO 94/11330) and further in view of Clement et al. (WO 01/04183 A1), for the reasons given in the previous office action, mailed October 9, 2009.

### ***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rosalynd Keys whose telephone number is (571)272-0639. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 am-7:30 am and 9:15 am-3:15 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Sullivan can be reached on 571-272-0779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rosalynd Keys/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1621

March 17, 2010